

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
25 N BROADWAY  
PERU, IN 46970

DECEMBER 5, 2011

Commissioner Vice Chairman Faust opened the meeting in the absence of Chairman Boyer.

300N ROAD ISSUE

Phil Thorington, 300 N addressed the Board regarding an issue with 300N flooding to the point that they cannot get out. He has brought this issue to the Board of Commissioners many times before and the issue has never been taken care of. Mr. Thorington has a very ill grandson who will be having surgery tomorrow and he is going to have to stay in a motel tonight to make sure he can get there. His neighbor also has a daughter who is very ill and facing the same issues. Mr. Thorington feels like he has very patient but he only has one grandchild and he does not feel like he can set back and let this go on and his grandchild suffer the consequences. The road needs fixed now. Commissioner Faust said he would have the Highway Engineer come and look at it and see what can be done.

9-1-1

Cliff Gardner, 9-1-1 Director, gave copies of letters of accommodation he gave to 5 of his employees that went above and beyond on November 29<sup>th</sup> when Miami County was hit a snow storm to be placed in their files. He appreciated their dedication and the professional manner they displayed.

The Board of Commissioners wanted to thank all units of public safety for their hard work and dedication during that storm.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Ken Scott, along with Samantha Ward of Solid Waste came before the Board to discuss the safety issue of the old electronics stored on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and the basement of the Annex.

Mrs. Ward said that you could not throw those things in the trash. Solid Waste could pick them up and dispose of them properly. The Commissioner will check what is in storage and what condition it is in and get back with them.

EMA

Kris Marks, EMA Director, informed the Board that tabletop exercise was held with Grissom and it went very well.

Mr. Marks also brought the 2010 EMPG competitive grant to be signed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Francis made a motion to sign the grant and Commissioner Faust 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

## TREASURER

Treasurer Becky Morris informed the Board that she turned in the settlement certification into the Auditor's office Friday morning.

The Treasurer also reported that since 7-1-11, she had brought in \$94,000 in interest. The Auditor asked if that included some interest from the first part of the year that she had not brought back into the County at the end of the first half of the year and the Treasurer confirmed it included that amount. She estimates that by the end of 2011 the County will receive a total of approximately \$103,000 in interest.

The Commissioners moved to the G.A.R. room at 10:00 a.m. for the meeting with the Library Board.

## PERU PUBLIC LIBRARY

Barri Rassi spoke to the Commissioners regarding the need of modernizing the Library. Mr. Rassi had sent each Commissioner a packet of information outlining where he believed the County had money to help keep this project going.

Kim Martino spoke on the Early Childhood Literacy program she is doing and passed out information regarding statistics surrounding early childhood literacy and the impact of having reading material available to them.

Mary Ann Farnham, **Assistant Librarian**, spoke to the different reading programs that are available to all ages at the Library. Mrs. Farnham also spoke to the availability of technology for Miami County citizens. Units of Government also have access to the state Gateway program necessary for the units to do their budgets.

Anna Jo McKaig, Library Board member, spoke to the impact a library has on economic development.

Ron Schuckel, Library Board member, stated that even though their sign says "Peru Public Library" it is really Miami County/Peru Public Library. He said that quite a few years ago, the Commissioner appropriated money yearly to help with expenses because County residents do use the Library. Mr. Schuckel also stated that the County has helped with some repairs for the building and he thanked them for that. Mr. Schuckel urged the County to help with this project as well.

Mike Montgomery, Architect for the project, explained the changes they would be working on and said it could be done in phases but it would be much more economical to do it all at one time.

State Representative Bill Friend also spoke on behalf of the project. He has met with the Library Board and he met with Auditor Lilley and understands the need for the project but also understands the County is trying to manage through difficult times. He would like to see the City of Peru and the County to work together to find a way to help finance this project. He will also research to see if there are grants available that could help **in**

**the renovation costs.** Representative Friend also stated he would be more than happy to carry messages back to the State.

James Walker, Mayor of the City of Peru, thanked the Board for listening to comments of this vital project. The City of Peru worked diligently to bring Ivy Tech College to Peru to help with higher education for the community and **feels** that the Library is essential to furthering education as well. The Mayor would like to work together to see if there is any way to help with funding this project.

Mr. Rassi finished the presentation with an explanation of needing the County's commitment so they can apply for grants and look for additional help with this project.

Jane Lilley, Miami County Auditor, explained that the \$225,000 of Riverboat funds Mr. Rassi claimed in the paper came to the County (yearly) was not completely accurate. **Miami County only received approximately \$125,000 of that money, the City of Peru received approximately \$81,000, and the rest was divided up among the other small towns.** The Auditor also explained about the Rainy Day Fund **and the process of receiving those funds from the State.** The State explained to the Auditor that local taxes have an 18 month- 24-month lag time, which means the county, **does not see those revenues immediately.** People have until April 15<sup>th</sup> of the following year to file their tax return. **Some** people can file for extensions or file amended tax forms, **further delaying distributions.** **In the past, the State held** money collected if the distributions were lower than money collected so that when the collections were lower, **the money being help would be distributed in an effort to supplement the lost income.** At some point in time, the Counties wanted the State to send them the money instead of holding on to it. Therefore, the State made special distributions to Counties and told them to create a Rainy Day Fund and put the special distributions in it. In June of 2009 the distributions became more than the collections and there was no money being held to supplement. Now the State **is saying that several counties have been overpaid and that Miami County has been overpaid** approximately 3.7 million dollars. They will cut the **monthly** distribution amount and will freeze it there (unless it goes lower). From this point forward, any money we collect above that distribution amount will be kept by the State and applied to what we owe. Therefore, even if we can create many new jobs, we will not see any of the money until the State says we have satisfied our debt. There will not be any Rainy Day Funds distributed to Counties until all debt is paid back and there is excess money. That Rainy Day money has to help with low distribution amounts until that time. The distributions affected are C.O.I.T., L.O.I.T. and C.E.D.I.T.

Commissioner Faust thanked Mr. Rassi for the presentation and stated he was in favor of updating the Library, however he does not see any way, in the economic situation the County is in, he could support the County committing the funding.

Mr. Rassi stated he had spoken with his attorney about the possibility of using Cumulative Courthouse funds. Commissioner Faust did not believe that is a possibility because that fund is set aside for repairs to the Courthouse and Annex. Commissioner

Faust and Commissioner Francis decided to table this issue to explore what avenues might be available.

Mr. Rassi respectively disagreed with that decision as they have been looking at this project for 20 years and more seriously the last 6 years. He would like the County and City to work together to get this project moving.

Commissioner Francis stated his concern on revenues for the County not coming in as anticipated this year and that the County General Fund was in the red as well as the employee medical fund (of which the money comes from County General) awaiting settlement. Miami County is self-insured and pays all medical claims from that fund. The County will be asking for an appropriation from the Riverboat and Rainy Day Funds to cover those deficits. The last tax sale had approximately 211 properties got to sale and only 32 of them sold the rest are still not bring in any tax revenue. These properties along with the tax caps and other delinquent taxes have caused a lot of concern.

The Commissioners tabled this issue and moved back to the Commissioners room to finish their meeting

#### MINUTES

Commissioner Francis made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Faust 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 2-0.

#### SHERIFF

Sheriff Miller informed the Board that intensity of the snowstorm last week rendered most of the vehicles for department useless and he wanted to thank publicly Paul Richards for helping out by loaning the department 4 vehicles that were 4-wheel drive. The State Police sent in officers to help as well as the DNR. The Sheriff greatly appreciated all the help and willingness of all departments to work together.

The replacement car for the car that was wrecked is in and the Sheriff needs the check for it today or tomorrow. Commissioner Francis made a motion to allow the check be written today. Commissioner Faust 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 2-0.

#### SUPPLY REQUEST

Commissioner Francis made a motion to have all supply requests be sent to Sharla Conley, Central Supply, to help **make** the switch to central supply easier. Commissioner Faust 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 2-0.

#### HIGHWAY ENGINEER

Ken Einselen brought in a Performance Bond for Bridge 152 to be **signed**. Commissioner Francis made a motion to sign the performance bond. Commissioner Faust 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 2-0.

Commissioner Francis made a motion to sign the claim for the Bridge inspection. Commissioner Faust 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 2-0.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Francis made a motion to approve the claims and Commissioner Faust 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Commissioner Francis made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Faust 2nd the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

**Adjourned**

**MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION**

\_\_\_\_\_, **Chairman**  
**C. Craig Boyer**

\_\_\_\_\_, **Vice Chairman**  
**H. Jon Faust**

\_\_\_\_\_, **Member**  
**Joshua Francis**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Auditor**  
**Jane Lilley**